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OCI No. 0756/65
5 February 1965

DCI BRIEFING
FOR THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

CAMBODIA

I. In Cambodia, Prince Sihanouk is moving toward closer ties with the North Vietnamese and the political arm of the Viet Cong, the National Liberation Front.

A. He believes that a Communist victory in Southeast Asia is inevitable, and that it is in Cambodia's interest to make appropriate adjustments for the future.

B. The Cambodians recently negotiated in Peiping with Hanoi and the Liberation Front, seeking agreement on territorial disputes between Cambodia and South Vietnam.

1. If Sihanouk had been able to win Communist endorsement for his version of the disputed frontier, he would have

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signed an agreement despite his awareness that this would constitute de facto recognition of Hanoi and the Viet Cong.

II. Meanwhile Cambodia's relations with the US continue to be strained.

- A. Talks with US Ambassador Bonsal in New Delhi in December failed to resolve outstanding differences. Cambodians in effect demanded that the US must accept full responsibility for all South Vietnamese activity and must also stop accusing Cambodia of harboring the Viet Cong.
- B. Sihanouk has threatened that if there is another major South Vietnamese incursion into Cambodia involving loss of Cambodian lives, he will break relations with the US.
- C. Cambodia is using newly received Chinese and Russian weapons to strengthen its border defenses against what it considers a real threat from Thailand and South Vietnam.

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